



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/988,566

11/20/2001

Makoto Okada

1359.1057

8743

21171

7590

07/05/2006

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

JIM LIVINGSTON

SUITE 700

1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

TRAN, NGHI V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2151

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 09/988,566	Applicant(s) OKADA ET AL.	
	Examiner Nghi V. Tran	Art Unit 2151	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on June 02, 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on January 25, 2006 has been entered.

### ***Election/Restrictions***

2. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1-7, in the reply filed on June 02, 2006 is acknowledged.
3. Claim 8 is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Group II, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on June 02, 2006.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

Art Unit: 2151

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thatte et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,442,620 (hereinafter Thatte), in view of Klimczak et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0023180 (hereinafter Klimczak).

6. With respect to claims 1, 4, and 6-7, Thatte teaches an object collaboration apparatus operated in accordance with a message and action relationship [see abstract and fig.2], comprising:

- a message receiving part for allowing each object to monitor and capture a message transmitted on a network [figs.6-7];
- a message and action relationship storing part [fig.4 and col.16, ln.13 - col.18, ln.65];
- an action executing part for executing processing in accordance with the contents of an action [col.4, lns.9-54],
- wherein the apparatus further comprises a message type classifying and matching part, the message type classifying and matching part stores and holds a message type dealt with by the message and action relationship storing part, analyzes a message type of a received message, conducts matching processing for determining whether or not a type of the received message is matched with the message type dealt with by the message and action relationship storing part, and if matched, gives the received message

to the message and action relationship storing part [figs.2-5 and col.9, ln.15 - col.13, ln.28], and

- an action is executed in accordance with the message and action relationship based on the message given to the message and action relationship storing part [fig.9].

However, Thatte does not explicitly show a message and action relationship storing part for storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message and adapted to search for corresponding action with a message body as a search key.

In an object collaboration apparatus, Holtz suggests or discloses a message and action relationship storing part [figs.4-5] for storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message [i.e. action description] and adapted to search for corresponding action with a message body as a search key [i.e. check whether the action item is present, step 7 of fig.10].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Thatte in view of Holtz by storing contents of an action that is a reaction to the message and adapted to search for corresponding action with a message body as a search key because this feature may correspond to many various types of functionality relating to the user interface, such as data display, data output and data transfer rather than to database access or database modification privileges [Klimczak, see abstract]. It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated in order to decide on the

Art Unit: 2151

subscriber's configuration strategy and to actually input the desired configuration information into the appropriate computer [Klimczak, paragraph 0011].

7. With respect to claim 2, Thatte further teaches classification of the message type has a hierarchy, and a message type header representing message type contains information representing the hierarchy of the classification of the message type, and by applying the hierarchy of the classification of the message type, the message type classifying and matching part stores and holds a message type dealt with by the message and reaction relationship storing part, analyzes a message type of the received message, and conducts matching of the message type [col. 22, ln.29 - col.28, ln.18].

8. With respect to claim 3, Thatte further teaches the message type is defined by using an idea of inheritance in object-oriented programming, and the hierarchy of the classification of the message type contains a hierarchy of classification of a class derivation message type and a class derivation origin message type [col.23, lns.43-60 and col.1, ln.15 - col.2, ln.58].

9. With respect to claim 5, Thatte further teaches for synchronization processing between objects, action contents desired to be subjected to the synchronization processing are described by using the object entity name to be an entity name rewrite target by the entity name rewrite object, in the message and action relationship storing

Art Unit: 2151

part of an object to be a slave, and the entity name rewrite object rewrites the object entity name written as the entity name rewrite target into an object entity name to be a master object of the synchronization processing [col.4, ln.10 - col.5, ln.58].

### ***Response to Arguments***

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nghi V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-4067. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on (571) 272-3939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
ZARNI MAUNG  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER